

The International Morse Preservation Society and FISTS C.W. CLUB

_____ de G3ZQS

_____ 1996

Dear _____,

You have been sponsored for membership of the above club and it is my great pleasure to enclose herewith the membership application form.

There has long been a demand for an organizations such as this not only to fill the void left by the declining numbers of ex-professional operators but to nurture the interests of those who are drawn to the mode but lack the operating skills. It's just these Amateurs who would otherwise be tempted to exchange the key for a microphone if the satisfactions and pleasure of Morse were to be denied them by a lack of opportunity. Such opportunity is rare when one is a beginner and the bands appear to be populated by c.w. signals which are well beyond their limited skills.

FISTS is peopled by those whose love of Morse has urged them on to encourage the beginner, to dispel those initial moments of fear and help them reach out for a joy known only to a small minority of Radio Amateurs.

A love of MORSE and a concern for its perpetuation are the only requisites for membership. There is no specific speed requirement and neither is membership of the RSGB or other National body demanded. The aims of the club are:

- a) To further the use of Morse Code on the bands
- b) To encourage the newcomer to the mode
- c) To engender friendships within the membership

You will appreciate that in order to effect these goals, the club must render itself open to the novice operator and have a healthy sprinkling of Veterans to encourage them.

Your subs are due on the anniversary of the month in which you joined. There will be approximately 12 newsletters per year which will depend largely on your own contributions and you are encouraged to offer comments and observations.

We have our own QSL bureau which distributes members cards free as far as is possible and members may also chose to adopt the club QSL card.

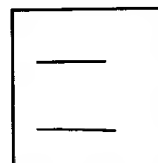
In addition, we have a talking newsletter for those who are visually handicapped.

One of the greatest spin-offs of a club of this nature is the firm and lasting friendships which are a direct result of membership and consequent on-air contacts. You are encouraged not only to meet other members on the air but, if the opportunity is there, on a Social basis also. Should you wish to invite your current friends to join the club, you are at liberty to nominate them bearing in mind the criteria mentioned above.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

FISTS C.W. Club

Membership Application Form



Callsign_____ Name on the Air_____

Mailing Name and Address:

The following info provides a synopsis of members' working conditions:

Rig(s)_____

Antennas_____

Other club affiliations (ARRL, RSGB, etc)_____

Other interests_____

Birthdate_____ Phone_____

Are you visually handicapped?_____

Email address (if applicable) _____

Packet address (if applicable) _____

Date_____ Your sponsor (if applicable) _____

Signature_____

Please enclose annual subs of \$15 (U.S. funds)

Please make checks payable to FISTS CW club and return to:
Nancy Kott WZ8C, POB 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 USA



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden. G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, Lancs. BB3 2LZ. England. 0254 703948

Listings: Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac St Longview WA 98632 Corrections & Callsign changes appreciated. SAE w/ 2 loose stamps for lists
 Club Supplies: Irene WO8E 25206 Hayes Roseville MI 48066 FISTS pins \$3.50 Logo stickers 200/\$5.00 Patches \$1.50 including postage
 NA QSL Manager: John N8FU 4441 Andreas Ave Cincinnati OH 45211 PSE keep a couple SASEs on file to get your cards
 NA Award Manager: Lee N9NVV 4530 N 15th Street Terre Haute IN 47805 Subs & renewals: \$15 US to Nancy WZ8C POB 47 Hadley M

FAMILY PLAN: All CW folks at the same address can join FISTS for one sub fee, but only one KeyNote will be mailed per household.
 NETS: Sunday 2000Z on 14.058MHz (KE3NV/W4JTU Net Control) Sunday 2300Z (7pm EDT) on 7.058 MHz W3ERU is NetControl

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday and Thursday 9pm EDT on 3.682 Net Control op varies.

Slow Ragchewing Group! W8BI 8pm EDT Wed on 3.720

PSE keep watch on the Novice bands and the frequencies ending in ".058"

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO



by WZ8C - Ms. Nancy Kott
 P.O. Box 47
 Hadley, Michigan 48440-0047
 WZ8C @ KF8JS.#NEMI.MI.USA.NA
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Hello fellow FISTS! You probably noticed that the Keynote arrived without an envelope this month. After hearing my reasons for doing it this way, I hope you agree that it is a change for the better. If you have problems getting your Keynote delivered, or it arrived tattered and torn, PLEASE let me know.

To give you an idea of how FISTS has grown, in 1989, we only had ELEVEN North American FISTS. I am now sending out almost 700 newsletters. I do this 95% of the time by myself (unless I ambush WO8E/WK8F when they are here for a visit, hi) The time it takes me to fold, stuff, seal, put on the stamp, return address label, your address label was getting to take up a major chunk of time. Going to envelope-less mailing cuts out 4 of the steps, plus eliminates the cost of an envelope and 1/2 the labels. With Bulk Mail postage costs going up again in June, I sure didn't want to have to increase the subscription rate or cut back on things like certificates for the Century Award, Elmers, contests, or sending out sample newsletters.

The YL at the post office, as well as a couple FISTS, suggested I try mailing with out envelopes. I was concerned about the arrival condition of Keynotes mailed this way, but I haven't talked to anyone who has had a problem getting other newsletters. Oh, there has been

the occasional horror story of mutilated mail, but that happens with things mailed in an envelope, too. So, please give this a chance, I'll be trying a couple different things over the next few months to try and get it right. On with the Keynote!.....

Welcome to the New FISTS

John KD1XA dropped me a note to let me know that I skipped from FISTS number 2076 to 2099 in the Welcome to new FISTS listings. I couldn't believe it, but sure enough, when I checked, darned if he wasn't right! I don't know HOW that happened, but I'm sorry - and here they are! How come John was the only one who noticed this and let me know???

- 2077: Chuck N1RXT in Chelmsford MA
- 2078: Shelia N9TTT in Fortville Indiana
- 2079: Mike KE4UKX in Charlottesville Virginia
- 2080: Randy AA2HR in Merchantville New Jersey
- 2081: Carol AB2AC in Merchantville New Jersey
- 2082: Dortha N4SHE in Low Gap North Carolina
- 2083: Tom KJ5IE in Jackson Mississippi
- 2084: Beth KA7AKK in Apache Jct Arizona
- 2085: Ermon KD7EL in Apache Jct Arizona
- 2086: Jim KN6TC in Owensboro Kentucky
- 2087: Ed N2JBZ in E Brunswick, New Jersey(KB0JTS)
- 2088: Mike KJ7LR in Lame Deer, Montana (N3LBC)
- 2089: Jon KD1XA in South Paris, Maine (K4AHM)
- 2090: Mary N3VYW in Jurehsville Maryland (AC5CM)
- 2091: Harold KC8BVS in Lake Orion Michigan
- 2092: Cheryl KB0RQN in St Louis Missouri
- 2093: Ray K7AA in Longview Washington
- 2094: John AE0EM in Mt Iron Minnesota
- 2095: Dave W6EMD in Redwood City California
- 2096: Bill WA6YPE in Newberry Springs California
- 2097: Jay AC6GR in Los Angeles California
- 2098: Larry KB2EE in Henrietta New York
- 2099-2171 in Issue 2 and Issue 3
- 2172: Dick K8UGL in Columbus Ohio (K8OUA)
- 2173: Serge AA8OT, UA3AP Columbus OH (WB2FXK)
- 2174: Tom KB2ULL, Flemington New Jersey (WA2OVT)
- 2175: Jim AA0PP in Milford Kansas (?)
- 2176: Jerry KB9KFR in Connersville Indiana (NY2V)
- 2177: Ted K3CJO in Laurel Maryland (KC8ASP)
- 2178: Pete K4PTU in Moncks Corner SC (K4HXM)
- 2179: Fred KB2HZO in Green Brook NJ (K4HXM)
- 2180: Ralph KA3KQQ in Salineville Ohio (K4HXM)

2181: Melissa KC7CSZ in California (W6OLD)
 2182: Harry K15UK in Tunica Mississippi (K4HXM)
 2183: Cris N0XZB in Overland Pk Kansas (KA0JLF)
 2184: Art W8TMS in Troy Michigan (N9JIY)
 2185: Bill KC5SPF in Duncan Oklahoma (N9ZNF)
 2186: Bill W6HDP in Prescott Valley AZ (K7AA)
 2187: John KC4PFU, Marshall North Carolina (K4HXM)
 2188: Rick WO8L in Pfafftown NC (XE1/KG8DA)
 2189: Dick WA6TMF in Napa California (AA0XI)
 2190: Jimmy AE4NA in St Petersburg Florida (?)
 2191: Rick KF2TP in Long Beach New York (?)
 2192: Al KC8CKO in Fariborn Ohio (AI9L)
 2193: Ken W6FU in Arcadia California (N6MM)
 2194: Harvey N6MM in Altadena California (W6FU)
 2195: Doc AA5MP in Tulsa Oklahoma (AL7GQ)
 2196: Jim KB7MNH in Phoenix Arizona (N9TRK)
 2197: Doug K4ZB in Fripp Island SCarolina (WZ8C)
 2198: Jim AA9LS in Kingston Illinois (K8OUA)
 2199: John KB7OMU in Roy Washington (K3DC)
 2300: Larry K0SIA in Marion Iowa (WZ8C)
 2301: Fred AA9PI in Nashville Indiana (AA2HR)
 2302: Bob NK8V in Fenton MI 48430 (K8MEG)
 2303: Terry KE4TBC in Roanoke VA (WB4VFN)
 2304: Ed W8QJT in Cincinnati Ohio (G3ZQS)
 2305: Mike N0RTU in Mooresville Missouri (?)
 2306: John KB5ZP in Bloomington Indiana (73 mag)
 2307: John K4AVX in Hazard Kentucky (WG4VFN)
 2308: Stewart N9OGI in Chicago Illinois (73 mag)
 2309: Fred KE4ODE in Decatur Georgia (AE4LQ)
 2310: Donna WB1CCG N Bridgeton Maine (W1CFZ)
 2311: Vic AC5GP in Abilene Texas (N9TRK)
 2312: John K8LYR in Key Largo Florida (WB2FXK)
 2313: John N8TDE in Allen Park MI (AE4LQ)
 2314: Frank WB2BXO in Brooklyn New York (WZ8C)
 2315: Harry W2LOZ in Brooklyn New York (WZ8C)
 2316: John N4QEX in Gloucester Virginia (WD8OCV)
 2317: Fred W3HSN in Blue Bell PA (AA2HR)
 2318: Tom KF9WG in New Paris IN (XE1/KG8DA)
 2319: Bill N1SGI in Foster Rhode Island (?)
 2320: Lon N5DJY in Turner Maine (KC4JGT)
 2321: Bud KD6NOF in Newhall California (73 mag)
 2322: Art WA7MMG in Coeur D'Alene ID (KB7OMU)
 #2128 is Ben KE4UAR

Motivation!

Along with his subs renewal Larry K9ZCH sent this wonderful list:

Things that I have done because I joined FISTS two years ago --

1. Learned to appreciate Morse Code
2. Increased my copy speed from 8 to 27 WPM
3. Designed and built three CW T/R switches
4. Rebuilt and repaired three CW transmitters
5. Became QRV on six and two meter CW
6. Upgraded to Extra, 35 years after my upgrade to General (to the month) 2/96
7. Built two operating positions for CW work
8. Learned that if an operator cannot communicate by turning a signal on and off then he/she is not a radioman!

73 Larry

That's great Larry! Congrats on the upgrade - it's a terrific testimonial to what can be accomplished when you put your mind to it (and find out that CW is FUN, not a chore or obstacle)

Letter to Grandson, 13

Dear Alan,

I was pleased to talk with you this morning and to know that you will soon start your Novice class, I am sure you will find it stimulating and fun.

I was about your age when I started. Then there were no classes, no beginner's licenses, and very little manufactured components and not much published material. However, building was simple -- just a Quaker Oats box on which to wind a coil and a Ford Spark coil along with a simple crystal detector would put us on the air.

One of the great things about Amateur Radio is the many facets and a wide choice of activity. But like all acquired skills, the fun really starts after you have become fairly proficient --like tennis or golf. But the process of learning can be fun, too.

Communication is the base of ham radio. Even after all these years, it is still exciting to be in one's home, in familiar surroundings and talk, one-on-one, to people all over the world. Many will be friends that you will talk to, often.

I urge you to become proficient with code. Not only receiving speed but clean well spaced sending. And stay with it until you are completely comfortable. Then, you may want to use voice. But having mastered code, you can always have it as a primary or secondary mode. You may want to use both.

There is also the technical side and the fun of building some of your own gear and experimenting with antennas. And there are some sophisticated areas such as satellite communication, television, teletype, packet and on an on. There is also VHF and UHF for local contacts.

Ham radio is a lifetime hobby that doesn't get dull. Competition is another facet that I have found enjoyable. We compete in working foreign countries and another is for just working as many USA stations in a weekend. Knowing you, it might be your kind of activity. Love, Grandad K4FW

Thanks for sharing this Al -- This was written in 1991, what happened to Alan, did he get his ticket?

Abbreviation Questions

Richard KA1ZQR needs assistance deciphering these abbreviations. I believe most of them are clubs. I'll put the answers I receive in the Keynote.

TOPS (this is a high speed cw club)

FOC (exclusive cw club, potential members acceptance voted on by current members)

MEGS	DIG	AGCW-DL
VRZA	HSC	NAFRAS

and "PL" as in CTSCC tone squelch "phasing link"?

New Version of M*LOG

Milestone Technologies announces the release of version 3.2 of M*LOG, a popular general purpose radio log-keeping system for DOS based PCs. Marshall **AA0XI**, Operations Manager, says "M*LOG has always been one of the most powerful and flexible packages on the market. Responding to users' requests we have added a number of new features. M*LOG has virtually unlimited capabilities for recording, manipulating, and using log data."

Standard features of M*LOG are automatic country lookup, unlimited QSO data -- including six individual fields which the user can name, unlimited remarks or notes, and access to popular callbook databases. Log reports and QSL data can be listed in any order, including complex contest log formats. QSL data can be printed directly on cards or labels, or saved in a file in WordPerfect Merge or delimited ASCII text format. The new version adds the ability to report in callsign suffix order, and QSO profiles, which allow you to store unlimited sets of "static data" to further automate the QSO recording process. Profiles can be established for various types of operations including contests, QRP, and various equipment and antennas.

Three "modes" of QSO data entry are supported: direct log editing, real-time QSP entry, and contest mode which includes automatic time, serial number generation and dupe checking. A wide range of customizing features is available, including user-definable default field values, screen colors, and function keys which can be set to contain frequently used data such as station information.

Marshall says Milestone Technologies' radio software is designed by and for amateur radio operators and professionally programmed and documented. "The quality of our software allows us to offer an unconditional guarantee. Our customers can rest assured that they are dealing with a company that is reputable and 100% serious about its satisfaction guarantee."

M*LOG is \$34.95, plus \$5 per order S/H (mention your FISTS number for 10% discount) The upgrade version 3.2 is \$18 p.p. for registered users of previous versions. Credit card orders call 1-800-238-8205. For more info about this or other Milestone products, call Marshall Emm at 303-752-3382, or write 3140 Peoria St, Unit K-156, Aurora CO 80014-3155. E-mail via 75230.1405@compuserve.com -FIDONET1:104/443.

FISTS NET ON 30 Meters?

*From Longtime FISTS member Dick **N4VEF**:*

I was talking to **AA0HR** Rick and we were wondering about the possibility of having a QSO Party on 30 meters. A CW only band would be a natural choice and QRM is less there than on twenty meters.

Just a thought - have no particular frequency or time in mind. But maybe FISTS would have some ideas. Also would like to see a net for getting FISTS numbers and hopefully a Worked All States for FISTS - We

almost have enough members now. We will look forward to FISTS replies in the newsletter.

FB idea Dick and Rick - we DO almost have enough FISTS for a WAS award, we are missing a couple states. I did a quick check & didn't see any members in HI, N Dakota or Utah, so if you know of any CW folks in those areas, recruit 'em! The net on 30 meters sounds good too, I know people get upset if contesting is done on 30, but I don't know of any objections for a net or roundtable chat. I will print any suggestions in the upcoming Keynotes.

Sunday afternoon QSO Party Report

Feb 25: W4JTU, KA1JCT, KC4UUG, N2HCU, WP2T, N8IAG, K4SV, N1MHC

March 3: AC6GR, N5EIF, N4VEF, N7CFA, VE5RD, AA3DU, W4JTU, AB7OE, N2HCU, WE6V, N8FU

March 10: WP2T, N8FU, N4VEF, AA3DU, W4JTU, KS4XN, K7WF, AB7OE, N2HCU, KB3BKJ, K4SV, KS4UV, N3PM, KB5VTB, VY2RB, W3ERU

March 17: W4JTU, AA3DU, AC6GR, W3ERU, N8FU, KC4UUG, AA0NR, N4SHE, W2WSS, KB8ZYY, KB5VTB, AE4LQ, N4VEF, WA0FGV

March 24: N3PM, W4JTU, AA3DU, N8FU, WP2T/1, AE4MU/QRP, W8DYF, N2PLE, AA0NR

March 31: AA3DU, K7WF, AA0NR, N3PM, N8FU, N4VEF, W3ERU, KB3BKJ

Scott **KE3NV**, NCS, sez: "I would like to thank Maggie **WP2T** for all of her help since I inherited NCS and wish her the best of luck at her new QTH.

I have also has asked Bert **W4JTU** to give a hand with the net for 2 reasons. Bert has a very strong signal constantly and he is very polite and patient. Bert is a true gentleman and a great CW operator.

I have received several responses about the Net Procedures. So far, it is all for the Century Award and zero votes for rag chewing. I will give everyone a few more weeks to respond, then send the final tally. I will also send along a the new procedures for the net and when the changes will take place."

Sunday Evening QSO Party Report

This group is really taking off! Here are the reports, thanks Bill **W9ALM**

March 17: W9ALM, AE4LQ, KB5VTB, AE2L, N4SHE, WO8E, W3ERU, N3PM, WB8WOL, KB2HZO, WB3KHK

March 24: W9ALM (NCS), KB2HZO, KB3BKJ, KE3NV, N3PM, KB5VTB, AA0NR/m

March 31: W3ERU, W9ALM, N3PM, KE3NV

April 7: W3ERU, WD8OCV, W8LHG, W9ALM, N3PM, KB3BKJ

LATE KEYNOTE DELIVERY?

Many FISTS didn't get Issue 3 until the middle of April! I mailed it 3/22, you should have gotten it by the end of March! I asked the PO YL what could have happened (of course she didn't know), she suggested putting the ZIP+4 might help. If there isn't a zip+4 on your label, pse send it to me!!! I can't look them all up! We get a cheaper postage rate if they are all zip +4 also.

Introduction to members

by John K3WWP

Since I have been a member of FISTS for several months now, I feel it is time to write and introduce myself to the membership.

I was licensed back in April 1963 as KN3WWP, and was very active until the early 1970's, upgrading from Novice to General to Extra. I had a chance to change my call, but I love the way it swings on CW so I have always hung on to it. I was inactive from the early seventies until 1993 except for a period of activity in the early eighties. All of my activity has been on CW except for about 5 phone QSO's testing out other ham's gear for them. As I am writing this, my QSO total stands at just under 29,000. That's a lot of brass pounding.

I have gone from a straight key to a bug to a one tube Handbook keyer, a W9TO (just talked to Jim on 30 meters a few days ago. He is doing well), an Accu-Keyer, and now I am using the CMOS Super Keyer II. I have always used a homebrew paddle for the keyers, and once built a bug also.

Back in the 60's my main interest was in county hunting, and I was disturbed that there was no CW county hunters net, so along with WA8EOH, I started one. Although I have no connection with it now, it still is on 14.056 MHz every day, run by WA6VJP and others.

My activity in the 80's was mainly rag chewing and a bit of DXing. I grew to really like the new 30 meter band when it opened for ham radio around that time. I thought it was neat to have a CW only ham band.

In 1993, the broadcast station I worked for was sold, and all the employees released, so I decided to semi-retire. At around the same time, my neighbor and friend Eric (now KB3BFQ, FISTS #1786) wanted to know all about ham radio, so we built a transmitter, and I set up my station again. I became very active again, and continue so to this day.

I currently enjoy rag chewing, contests, and DXing. I operate strictly QRP with a power of 5 watts or less, and also using only simple wire antennas! I have trouble with the concept of running 5 watts output from a transmitter, and then boosting it many times with huge antenna arrays. To me, that is not pure QRP. Lately, I am trying to get WAS with a half watt. I have 29 states worked, and have also worked 21 countries with the half watt. Ever since Eric got his novice ticket, I have been spending more time in the novice bands, hopefully helping newcomers to enjoy CW. I work all 9 HF bands, with my current favorites being 30 and 160.

I am disturbed by the declining number of CW ops on the ham bands. I almost never work a CW operator who is under 50 years of age. Does this mean in a few years there will be no CW left on the bands? That would be a real tragedy.

There is also a lack of CW activity in many of the state QSO parties and other such contests. I would like to encourage all FISTS members to try out the contests. If you don't think you can hack it in the big contests, try the smaller ones. Let's just get some CW action going in contests again. The big contests,

SS, ARRL DX, CQ DX, etc, etc seem to be doing OK, but the smaller ones need help. I personally enter every single contest, big and small, except for the phone-only contests, of course. I have won many certificates over the years in contests.

One last thing. I agree with W19X about the lack of CW activity on 10 meters. I joined the 10-10 Club hoping that would help somehow, but it seems that they are mostly geared toward SSB activity (ughhh). I would like to see some sort of a schedule of activity on 10 meters CW. Say calling CQ on a certain frequency (28058?) at 00 and 30 mins each hour whenever possible just to see if some QSO's can be started. I am sure that the band is open more often than many think. Even during the good E skip openings, there is often much activity on SSB, but almost no one on CW.

Well, I could go on forever, but I better not.

Sincerely,

John H. Shannon K3WWP - FISTS # 2002

Question about keyer weights

Dick WA6TMF asks "Why do operators need weight controls on their keyers? Do people change the 3-1 ratio of dah to dit as they increase in speed or is this just a personal preference item?"

I use a straight key 90% of the time, so I'm putting this to the membership for an answer. I would guess that it has something to do with speed. I've heard some operators, who have improved their speed, using keyers on the air but still use the setting they used at slower speeds and this can be hard to copy.

Look in the Keynote next month for your answers.

Slight Exaggeration?

Doug K4ZB sends along the following profile, with the note that some of this is not believable, but he has been pounding brass, Vibroplex or keyers since he was 12 and he's now 89. We can see he's a CW man!

George McKenzie Douglass was born September 23 1868 (at times he thinks it was earlier). After three prep schools he gathered degrees from Harvard, MIT, Cal Tech and began free-lancing. An early friend was old "Gug" Marconi struggling with spark transmissions. Doug straightened him out in critical areas and he went on to do very well. Later, playing golf with Dr. Lee DeForest, Doug told him that if he put a grid in that vacuum tube he was working with, it would make a great amplifier. Lee was very grateful. Later, with Ed Armstrong they got the regenerative receiver going and after that the superheterodyne. Doug was pretty good with tubes but when those guys in the Bell Labs came up with those transistors that people cannot see, he gave up research and went down to South Carolina to raise peas and trawl for shrimp.

FB Doug, while trawling for shrimp down there in South Carolina, I wonder if you ever ran into Forrest Gump - between the two of you, there's enough material for another blockbuster movie! HI!

Club QSL Cards

There has been a renewed interest in the club QSL card, and Scott KE3NV offered to do a search for a company who will print the cards at a more competitive price. WX9X Quality QSL Cards had the best price and quality. Scott has ordered thousands of QSLs over the years from WX9X has been very happy with the results.

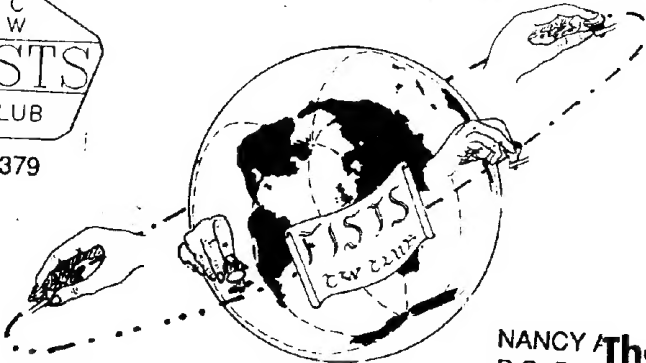
You have a choice of "original style" or "new style" cards (see below). WX9X offers an economy type which is on a non-glossy card stock with the option of white, grey, canary, ivory or blue paper and black, blue, red or green inks. The Deluxe II QSL card is on a high gloss paper, in white only, but you get the option of several different colors for your callsign and different color for the remaining print. The backs of both cards will be printed in black. WX9X guarantees your satisfaction or your money back. In this issue you will find an order form that you can use (or copy) with WX9X's address/phone number if you would like to order these Club cards or have any questions.

WZ8C



FISTS 379
ARRL
YLRL

ORIGINAL
STYLE FRONT



*These cards have
been trimmed to fit
on this page - cards
are really the typical
3x5 QSL card size.*

NEW STYLE FRONT

NANCY A
P.O. Box
Hadley, MA
USA LA

The International Morse Preservation Society



North American Association

KE3NV

Scott G. Bauer, 1300 Odenton Road, Odenton MD 21113
Anne Arundel County, USA-FISTS 1502

International Morse Preservation Society

NEW
STYLE BACK



I'm a proud member of the North American Association of the International Morse Preservation Society and its FISTS CW Club. The main goal of the society is to encourage greater use of Morse Code by novice and veteran amateur radio operators.

Members come from all over the world and search each other out on the air simply because of a common enjoyment of Morse Code. Each month FISTS publishes a "chatty", down-to-earth newsletter that's interesting and enjoyable to read. But I think the most fun are friendships developed on the air and through the newsletter simply because we enjoy the music of CW.

To join FISTS you don't have to copy CW at any particular speed or hold membership in any other amateur radio societies or clubs. *You just have to enjoy Morse Code!*

I enjoyed our CW contact and invite you to join FISTS. For information on membership and a sample copy of our newsletter contact the association representative closest to your station:

NORTH AMERICA: WZ8C Box 47 HADLEY, MA 01844-0047

UK: G3ZQS 119 CEMETERY RD., DARWEN, LANCs. BB3 2LZ, ENGLAND

Confirmed

☐ Two-Way Radio Contact

☐ Reception Report

Radio	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	2 Way	RS	Power	QSL

ORIGINAL STYLE BACK

This is the active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society whose prime aim is the fostering of the International Morse code and its use by Amateur Radio Stations both Veteran and Novice. We have members throughout the world and, in company with a light and chatty monthly News Letter, the biggest spin-off is the number of firm and lasting friendships which are a direct result of contacts between members.

There is no speed requirement and no affiliation to National Societies is demanded to qualify for membership; indeed, the only criterion for membership is a love of Morse.

This c.w. contact has been much appreciated and further information concerning FISTS is available from this station or direct to:

G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, Lancs. BB3 2LZ, England

To Radio QTR _____ QSL our 2x c.w. QSO on _____ MHz _____ Your sigs R _____ S _____ T _____ 19 _____
g.m.t. QRG _____
Pse/Tnx QSL Direct via Bureau 73 de

FISTS MORSE CLUB

WX9X QSL CARD PRICE LIST AND ORDER FORM (1996)

354 West St. • Valparaiso, IN 46383 • (219) 465-7128 • FAX (219) 464-7333 • E-MAIL wx9x@hoosier.com

IMPRINT INFORMATION (PLEASE Print or Type Clearly, Especially U's and V's)		SHIPPING ADDRESS (if different than card)
Name _____	Call _____	
Address _____		
City _____	State _____ Zip _____	
County _____	Grid (if you provide) _____	
Other: awards, logos, ex-calls, etc: FISTS# _____		
USA on your address? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO ARRL Logo? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Your phone numbers: Day () _____ Evening () _____		
Fax () _____ E-mail _____		

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ordfm96a / REV 0196

FISTS Spring Sprint is Here

written by Pete K8OAU, Activities Manager

By the time you receive this you'll have only a week or two to get ready for one of the best and most popular of FISTS activities, the Spring Sprint. This is the second annual Spring Sprint, we're hoping for a greater than ever turnout of FISTS for this one.

Hang on there! You say you're not into contesting cause its all noise, unfriendly ops, and more QRM than you can hear on the 40 meter shortwave band? Well, if you've not participated in a FISTS Sprint before, you'll be surprised at this contest. Yes, it is a contest, yes, there is a winner, yes, those involved do compete for a certificate or two or three. But, thats where the similarity with other contests ends. This one is FRIENDLY. It really is! People do stop and say 'hi' and participants are not so crazy about winning that they step on everyone else to get to the top. I've had so many members tell me that they ordinarily do not get involved in contests, but that they have taken part in the FISTS Sprints and they've loved them. So, how about it, get your rig ready, shake the dust off the dipole, clean the contacts on the key, and have a go (as the Aussies say). Lets really show the rest of the world that the CW bands can come alive on a Saturday afternoon in May. If you don't enjoy the Sprint, drop me a line and complain -- you'll be the first person to do that since we started.

Ya' know, the Sprints, like all the FISTS activities, are a great way for us to get the word out that the dinosaur ain't dead, that we know something that many don't know, and that we're having a ball doing what we're doing. Remember too, that if you're after a Century Award, this is one more way to make FISTS contacts. C'mon, just do it, get on the air and participate. Here are the details about the Spring Sprint:

DATE: Saturday May 11 TIME: 1700 - 2100 UTC

OBJECTIVE -- Work as many FISTS and non-FISTS as you can in the four hour time period. CW Only. Work stations only once per band

EXCHANGE -- Name, state/province/DXCC country, FISTS number or power output if non-member

MULTIPLIERS -- States/provinces/DXCC countries -- states and provinces count only once as a multiplier; **DX QSOs count as a new multiplier each contact** if QSO same DX station on different bands, it is a new multiplier each time, and if work different DX stations from the same country on one or more bands each contact counts as a new multiplier

SCORE -- Count each FISTS contact as 5 points, each non-FISTS QSO as 2 points;

FINAL SCORE -- QSO points X multipliers.

Send your log by June 17 to Peter Kozup, K8OAU, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481.

Remember, calling frequencies are around 3.558, 7.058, 14.058, 21.058, and 28.058 MHz, but lets not forget the novices and techs in this contest. Get on the low end of each novice sub-band and start calling for FISTS novices/techs. Help them participate too. Remember, helping novices/techs is one of the pur-

poses of this club. Novices and techs, you can get on and just work as many other novices and techs as you can -- exchange the right information, and you will get at least 2 points per contact each time you work a new one even if he or she isn't a member of FISTS.

OK, there it is, I'm really looking forward to a great Sprint, but it can only be successful if you guys participate. So, mark your calendar now, and get ready for a great four hours worth of operating using the most satisfying of modes, CW. Hpe CU on Sprint.

FISTS PHOTOBOOK

As of the time of writing this, we have at least one new photopage ready for printing. Thanks to all who have sent in your photo -- Every picture we get is important, don't think it doesn't make a difference if you don't send one in! As a "gentle reminder" send a photo with your face showing about 1" (don't crop it yourself) to WK8F Ken, 25206 Hayes, Roseville MI 48066.

Daylight Savings Time

I don't know about you, but I hate Daylight Savings Time. It wreaks havoc with my 'inner clock' and I'm off track for weeks until I get adjusted (which I never completely do). It also wreaks havoc with Nets, there is the question of whether they are going to stay with the Zulu time, and start an hour later according to the normal clock, or whether they are going to change the Zulu starting time to accommodate the "spring ahead" of the normal clock. I've tried to contact as many of the NCS as I could to get the times correct on the masthead. Here is a run-down of the ones I've heard from: The Sunday afternoon QSO Party is staying with 2000Z, making it start an hour later than normal. The Sunday evening QSO Party is staying with the clock time of 8pm EDT, moving the UTC to 2300Z. The traffic nets are staying with 9pm EDT. Good luck! I'll keep you posted if there are any changes.

A Friday Night in Dayton

By Pete K8OAU

Being a ham in Ohio is kinda neat! We're close enough to the ham version of Mecca, Dayton, without being so close that when you get there you don't feel as though you haven't gone anywhere. We can still have a vacation weekend but we don't have to drive all day or all week to get there. Five hours on the road, coupla pit stops, a good meal, and Eureka, we're there! We're still not far enough from home that if the XYL decides to stay home, we need not report in more than once a night. It's great! I love going to Dayton, not just to wander around the acres of wonderful junque that is the flea market, but I enjoy the forums, and looking at the new gizmos, half of which I don't understand. Most of all, though, I enjoy the eyeball QSOs that I have with people that I would otherwise know only as a continuous wave oscillation emanating from the speaker on my rig. Most of those, of course, are FISTS. I use the FISTS booth as the spot to hang my hat. When my wife and kids come with me, we use the

FISTS booth as the place to meet if we get separated. If you've taken kids to a crowded activity, you know exactly why you need such a spot. Moreover, the FISTS booth is friendly, the YLs there are the best looking, the OMs the most sophisticated, and the action continuous.

There is another aspect of Dayton that may prove to be one of the leading experiences of the weekend -- the Friday night bash at the Stouffer Renaissance Hotel in downtown Dayton. We have reserved a room in the Windows Lounge for the evening, beginning about 7 PM. There is a cash bar so bring your wallet, and there'll be munchies so that if you have to stop talking you can at least eat. Last year we sat around and chatted, and we'll do that again this year, but there will also be a very informal program. Rumor has it that we've imported a whole group of FISTS from the far west, well organized fellows who'll tell us how they've organized a local FISTS group. Rumor also has it that there may be other interesting topics, especially about the future of CW on the ham bands. So, here's a great opportunity to meet some of the signals you've heard on the air and to chat informally with some great hams, FISTS from around the world. WHERE? -- Windows Lounge on the top floor of the Stouffer Renaissance Hotel, across from the Dayton Convention Center in downtown Dayton WHEN? -- Friday night, May 17, beginning about 7.00 PM; FACILITIES? -- Cash bar.

Geo, the founder of FISTS will be there, he's got some great stories and an even better singing voice. Maybe we can persuade him to do an encore of the folk songs he regaled us with a few years ago! The FISTS booth is number C-15, near the cafeteria.. Look for the "Slope" on your Hamvention map and there it is! If you have an extra hour or two, consider volunteering to hang around and help pass out FISTS propaganda, we can always use a break and an extra hand or two..or three..or four..We're going to miss AA8MI, WA8MEM and others who have kids graduating from school that weekend - Congrats!

Bill W6HDP FISTS #2186

I became enthused about Ham Radio in 1947 thru a dear friend, W4LKT, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. My first call was W4NFD and was issued in January 1948. I retained this call for twenty years, modifying to W6HDP in 1967 while living in Garden Grove, Calif. Meanwhile, during this twenty years, I was recalled to active duty in the military (Navy) thru the reserve - having previously served in the Signal Corps during WW2 from 1941-45 - and retired from the Naval Security Group as a Chief Cryptologic Technician.

During WW2, I was at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. for Radio School, then selected as an instructor to open the new Southeastern Signal School at Camp Crowder, Missouri, later transferring into the 112th Signal Radio Intelligence Co. where I remained until the end of the war and was separated.

During the time I was in the Navy, my Duty stations were: three times in Washington, D.C., Philippines,

Japan, Cyprus and Morocco. I was fortunate to be able to operate An Air Force MARS station in the Philippines with the callsign AI4GC, then in Japan as KA2WJ and later as CN8GC in Morocco.

My family and I - three children - spent 8 years overseas. We had a truly great life in the Navy.

After Retiring from the military, I worked as a computer and Electronic tech for 14 years, retiring from full time work in 1981.

CK's Ode To Dah Code

Contributed by Gary Spence VA2CK Aylmer, Quebec
Used With Permission.

We've all heard the cry "abandon the code!, it's useless outdated, NOT a mod-er-n mode!" So I said to myself, "could code's day really be over? Best left for SKs' fer-til-iz-n' the clover?"

So off went my paddle 'n keyer to a museum, those curious of our "past" could drop in an' see um. I then bought a computer and a box I was told... would update my station, using all hi-tech modes.

It then was set up, all by my own hand..
the screen it lit up, et voila Heard Is-land!
I switched to transmit to "talk with this gent"
but my screen read "sorry, can't copy 100%!"

"There's static interference if you could hear it you'd agree...
if it ain't armchair copy we machines cry c'est la vie!"
It then said "there is as YOU know a way to get through, it's called the code, and what luck for you!"

"You've learned this art, you "stuck it out"
'tis a valuable tool, there isn't a doubt."
"You've invested your time, and besides the code you did learn,
possession of valuable skills must be... EARNED!"

So I say to you now don't get fooled when some say...
"Codes an' old dinosaur fadin' away!"
It's part of our past, present and future existence...
anti-coders prepare for "beaucoup de resistance"

Learning the code..and other ramblings....

by Gary KC5QPK

I learned the code when I was wee lad. My dad sat me down with one hand on his key and one foot on me (while I squirmed diligently). He repeated the sounds over and over again to me. I slowly (of course anything less than instantly for a kid is slow) learned the code. As I neared proficiency to take the novice test I was fast approaching that magic time in life when a constant state of confusion sets in...GIRLS. In this "state" I completely forgot about code....in fact I literally forgot code until about 25 years later.

Well, to make a long story short I have more confusion (girls) than I can shake a fist at now (3 daughters

and a XYL) and I try constantly to forget my "confusion" (not really, but I could use a really good lock for my shack).

Dad is nearing 70 now and I am nearing 40 and I just got back into code a few months ago. Funny.... I don't remember studying so hard about girls (it was trial and error, usually error). Speaking of errors, I almost didn't make the cut with my XYL when on our first date and I left the Convertible MG top down when we went into see a movie (in spite of her adamant appeal for me to put it up because it was going to rain). Yup, you guessed it. Rain it did, it was a thundering downpour (well...I was confused).

Anyway, I found that my best studying came using a product called Numorse and is available for download on Compuserve. I am no expert and I know that what works for me may not work for you....but this I can guarantee you...DO NOT LEARN CODE USING SIGHT OF -'s and .'s (dit's and dah's). You will never get to a decent speed. Code is an auditory method of communication and it would be akin to never hearing the English language spoken (only reading it) and then having someone come up to you and start talking to you...it would make no sense what so ever.

I have been trying to get to the point that I can copy code in my head and the Numorse program actually says each letter after it is sent (requires a sound board and windows) so you don't actually have to interact or even look at the computer. Initially I used the drill mode of this program and it worked well for me, I passed the 20 word per minute code test last week and I have been back in the saddle for about 6 or 7 months (and I'm no rocket scientist either...all those beers in college killed off too many brain cells...you all know the old saying..."boy, if I'd only known I was going to live this long I would've taken better care of myself").

The Numorse allows me to put on my headset and stroll around the house and do a little subliminal learning (it plays the code character and then says it). It seems to have helped tho I can't copy code like Dad (At his peak he was probably sending and receiving over 40 WPM...in his head).

Give it a shot and practice, practice, practice (I was sending code with dad every morning and night after I got my Tech license, he is in OK and I in TX). Girls might not have taken this much practice but look at the good side, when you screw up your code you won't have to hear about it for the next 20 years....

A Call to Action

Anyone who reads QST and keeps his or her ears to the ground knows that CW is at a crossroads. It is very possible that within the next few years the CW requirement for amateur exams will be done away with. I believe that if this happens the use of CW on the bands will decline dramatically, and newcomers to the hobby will not bother to learn the code. Not knowing the code will mean that any empathy with or under-

standing of the advantages of CW as a mode will be gone for virtually all newcomers to the hobby. It has already suffered dramatically, but we still have a pool of new hams who have learned the basics of CW operation and are therefore prospective CW devotees. I feel very strongly that we CW fans must keep our eyes and ears open to what is happening with the ARRL and with the FCC on this matter.

We must be prepared to identify proposals that are negative to the interests of CW and let the great number of CW devotees out there know about these proposals. I am, therefore, starting a sort of "watchdog group" that will collect the names, addresses, phone numbers, and, hopefully, email addresses of others interested in helping keep an eye out for the interests of CW on the ham bands in the near future. I make no bones about this, I'm not a lobbyist, have had no experience in doing anything of this sort, so I do need a great deal of help, advice, assistance, suggestions, etc.

I do not want this to be a TOTAL FISTS thing either, because Nancy has indicated that many members of FISTS are not into political action, have no desire to be, and simply want to take part in FISTS activities, and offer their assistance to newcomers in the FISTS tradition. These things are totally commendable, and greatly needed. It will do us no good to spot all the anti-CW things going around if there are no new CW fans to use the mode. So, please don't feel that I'm proposing that the entire FISTS organization become politically active. I'm not!

What I am proposing is that a Political Watchdog Group be formed under the FISTS umbrella to monitor the situation with regard to those in whose hands the future of CW lies (in this country these are the ARRL and the FCC) Identifying potential problem areas, we can alert the rest of the FISTS CW Club so that THOSE WHO WANT TO can take some action to protect our interests.

I already have had discussions with Art KC7IG and Ruth N7DEN, so the FISTS Political Action Group at this time has a membership of three. I expect it to rise greatly over time. If you would like your name to be added to the list of the FISTS PAG, please drop me a line with your name, call, address, phone number, and, most importantly, your email address. I'm not saying that every member must have an email address, but it will mean that communicating with members and linking them together will be much easier if they have access to email. Also, if you have experience with this sort of thing, or links, contacts with the ARRL or FCC, or some legal experience, or experience in writing submissions, etc., please let me know that too.

OK, this is it for now, but I hope that you will give some thought to the need for a group such as this to protect our interests and keep things going as we want them. It won't take much to make our baby a "has been", but if we keep a close watch on the situation and do at least have the opportunity to take action if it is needed, then we'll have a much greater chance of

keeping our baby alive. If you do want your name added to the list, drop me a line -- Peter Kozup, K8OUA, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481; or on email to 76022.2303@compuserve.com or my work email 210_100_LIB@neomin.ohio.gov. If none of these suits you, phone me on 330 847-0975. Luk forward to hearing from you soon. 73/88 Pete K8OUA

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KE4ZQD	John	jwolfe@atlanta.com
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AC5FY	Jim	jbbrow29@linknet.net
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KC5JEV	Eric	eefox@aol.com
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KG8UM Greg	103717.261@compuserve.com	
W9ALM	Bill	bill@netusa1.net
WA0UCQ	Gerry	wa0ucq@aol.com
AA0XI Marshall	75230.1405@compuserve.com	

Please forward corrections or additions to
blafont@tir.com

Bits and Pieces

Bill **KB6EI** writes "I thought I would drop you a line from California. As propagations is so bad, I have never yet talked to East Coast FISTS. That is, until 3/22 when I had QSOs with Greg **N3FSC**, John **AE2L** and Mike **AA3DU** in rotation. To top it off, I could not remember by 1751 member number, but it all worked out fine".

Mike **KJ7LR** is now **AB7OE**.

Chris FISTS #1758 finally got his call, he's **N1WWM**.

Congrats to Sara **KB8RHG**, Pete **K8OUA**'s daughter on her upgrade to General and getting her drivers license! Gee, I wonder which one she is more excited about...I have a feeling Pete's happier about the General upgrade and Sara's been looking forward to the driving license!

Wake Of The Wirelessman

This is a story written in novel form by B.J. Clemmons about her father's life as a wirelessman during WWI as a radio operator on many merchant ships. An excellent and exciting book. 60 photos/illustrations. ISBN 0-9637586-6-7 Quality soft cover \$16.95
For purchase: Wake of The Wirelessman P.O. Box 341 Palo Alto, CA. 94302

California FISTS Chapter

Jim **KF6CR** is interested in getting together with other FISTS members in his area to see if there is any interest in starting a local FISTS Chapter. He lives in San Bernardino California. We have about 40 California FISTS on the active FISTS rolls, but I have no idea where in the state you are located. I used to keep a map with push-pins representing FISTS, but it got to be too much to keep up with. If you are near San Bernardino, drop Jim a note at Jim Lowman 7726 Ditmar Ave, San Bernardino CA 92410-4717

Scott KE3NV

Scott is having Radial Keratanomy (probably spelled wrong) - that operation where they make incisions in the cornea to correct your vision. He already had one eye done at the time of this writing, and is scheduled for the other eye the week after that. Scott says he will be essentially blind for a month or two while recovering. Good luck Scott! I've heard good reports about this operation, altho I don't know of anyone personally who has had it done. (Except TV talk show host Kathy Lee Gifford!) Scott has a "Q-signal" to add to our growing list: **QDI**: Doggie Interference. His pup Bertha barks outside his window when he sends CW! She probably just wants to say Hello!

Marine Monitoring Frequencies

Listen on:

4.02 - 4.37 6.325 - 6.585 (WNU)
8.278 - 8.774 (CFM, VPH2) 12.320 - 12.780

Calling frequencies

Ships 8.354-8.374 Coastal: 8.476 - 8.745
12.531 - 12.561 12.714 - 13.130
16.709 - 16.748 16.952 - 17.290
22.220 - 22.270 22.400 - 22.650

12.948 Weather

A few years ago, my family and I went on a camping trip to S. Manitou Island in Lake Michigan, 17 miles due west of Leland. I thought I'd recap the story for FISTS, we very likely will be going again this summer.

Our family had been to S. Manitou Island several times over the years although this was only our second time as campers. The first time, in '92, we spent only one night and had excellent weather. We explored the island as much as our limited time would allow. (you arrive at the island at 12 noon and must be at the dock ready to leave by 11am the day you leave) We had only planned for the single night, hoping to get a feel for whether rustic camping was for us, but left the island wishing we had planned a longer stay. I had brought along an 2m HT on that first trip, but having so little time on the island, never even turned it on. The Traverse City 2m repeater is fairly easy to work from the island.

On our second camping trip in '93 to S. Manitou we had slightly different intentions. First, we planned a longer stay, four days and three nights. Secondly, since we would have more time on this trip, I wanted to bring along some HF gear as well as the HT (now a dual bander). The longer stay would not change our camping equipment needs much, but would mean backpacking in quite a bit more in the way of clothes and foodstuffs. With no roads, everything must be backpacked onto and off of the island. Walt WB8E generously loaned me his MFJ 40 mtr QRP rig which had been cleverly mounted, with keyer, paddles, light, and audio filter amp/speaker, all inside a medium size picnic cooler. I needed only to add coax and a homemade dipole. With only a little planning, we would be on our way. We set July 4th as our first day on the island.

We arrived in Leland at 9am to load our backpacks and gear on the ferry and to confirm our departure for the island. At dockside I used duct tape to seal the cooler containing the HF gear against any moisture, although there was nary a cloud in sight. I had repacked much of our gear the previous night, spreading the weight of our gear amongst the four of us, with my son, Sean KF8ZV and I taking on most of the heavier items. My wife, Denise, unknowingly, carried the large gel cell we would use for the radio... "I love, I love, I love my battery girl..." I had been just a bit feverish and occasionally chilled, but attributed it to anxiety and all the heavy packing and unpacking I'd just done as well as the stiff onshore breeze. Content that all our gear was aboard the "Mishe-Mokwa" (the ferry is named after the Mother Bear in the legend of Sleeping Bear Dune) and having parked the Suburban in the ferry company's lot, I boarded.

The trip to the island was much like others we had taken, a bit rough as we entered the center of the Manitou Passage, but otherwise not bad. Only a few of the less hardy souls aboard showed any signs of seasickness. Meanwhile though, the sky had taken on a distinctly different color and was looking ominously dark to the west.

Once at dock on the island, a National Park Ranger came aboard to explain the rules of conduct and camping on the island. She also informed any campers that a gale with 1/2 inch hail and winds of 50-60 mph was headed across the lake towards us. We were told to hasten to our campsites and get set up as soon as possible as there were no accommodations at the Ranger station. We picked up our packs, got our camping permit, and headed off to Weather Station Campground on the south side of the island, promising ourselves we would visit the lighthouse another day even though we would pass it on our way to our site.

Weather Station Campground, unbeknownst to us, was very appropriately named, as this is where most of the severe weather on Lake Michigan hits the island first. On our first camping trip to the island, we had spent the night on a bluff site here, overlooking the lake. On this trip, with heavy weather threatening we decided on one of the inland sites which was much more protected from the wind with 40-60 foot trees all around us. What we hadn't counted on was mosquitoes. On our first trip, we really hadn't noticed many, except on one hike inland. It seems the onshore winds keep them from being a nuisance at the bluff sites. Once inland though, and out of the wind, they descend on you in what my son laughingly called the "Flesh Dance". We set up camp in record time, swatting and spritzing with "OFF" as the sky grayed above. We managed to get dinner (dehydrated beef stroganoff, yum, yum) eaten and even had time to get the dipole up in the trees and watch a few of the mainland fireworks from the bluffs before the first drops of rain fell.

With our outside activities halted due to the weather, I busied myself with trying to make a few contacts on 40 meters before night fell. I had set up a loose sked of 7-8pm on 7.125 and 7.060 with other USECA members before leaving and wondered now if things would pan out. My first two contacts, AA8HE near Detroit and WX8T in Ohio, made it seem easy.

As evening fell, the weather turned for the worse. I did make my club sked before having to sign off due to nearby lightning and throw the coax out of the tent. As the storm grew more intense, winds became wild, reaching 60 mph and seemingly gusting from every direction, including from above. Looking through the tent door during lightning flashes, I could see the trees swaying in huge arcs overhead. Made me wonder if it was such a hot idea to camp inland. The gale continued for most of the night, with thunder echoing from so many directions as to make each lightning strike seem sixfold. Thank heaven we didn't get any of the hail the Ranger had mentioned.

We awoke in a small lake... our sleeping bags and an mattresses were soaked and I now had a pretty good cough and a mild fever to boot, but was intent on toughing it out. We needed to get dry! The weather was very windy, but the sun was out and Denise suggested we move to a bluff site, away from the mosquitoes. Nobody argued... we carried everything to a nearby bluff site and proceeded to dry the tents and sleeping bags. With steady winds of 20 mph, it didn't take long to dry out our gear and set up camp anew. Sean and I rigged the dipole in a sloper configuration off the bluff, tossing one end up in a 35 foot tree and tying the other end to a large piece of driftwood on the beach just inches from the water.

After a breakfast of dehydrated eggs and spam, (something Jessica and Sean never had the pleasure of tasting before) we explored the island further, visiting the "Valley of the Giants" (a grove of ancient cedars), and the shipwreck Francisco Morazon before deciding to hike back to our camp via the beach.

The "beach" disappeared in several places where we had to wade into the lake, waist deep, holding shoes and HT's over our heads to get around a few obstacles. Along the way we stopped for a picnic lunch and were accosted by the islands Micro-bears (chipmunks). They have no natural enemies on the island and are quite unafraid of man. They've no fear of jumping right into your lap to steal food and will chew up a tent or pack to get to your goodies.

After our hike back, I again tried to make a few contacts, the most memorable of which was a 45 minute ragchew with N5AJT of Kentucky, who is a retired radio op from a

Great Lakes Freighter. He knew exactly where we were and could describe the island very well, having passed it many times while working aboard different vessels. He held my interest with stories of storms on the Lakes and of near misses with other boats. I passed time after dinner (mystery meat again) chatting with locals on the Traverse City Repeater and on HF before finally running into Walt WB8E, the fella who loaned me the rig, later in the evening.

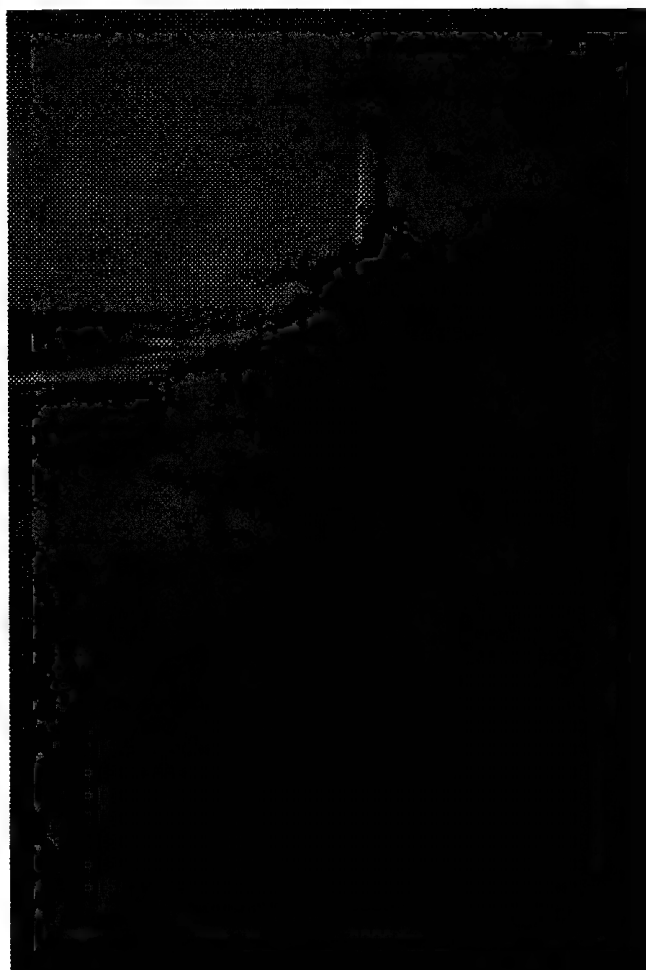
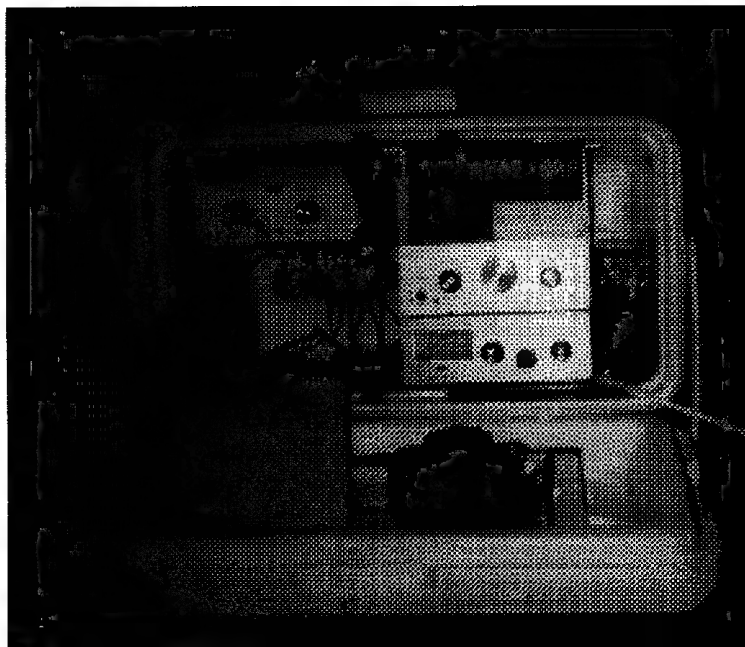
With the wind still holding at 25-30 mph, I checked the weather forecast using my HT. Although we could make out very few clouds, the forecast called for another storm... a rerun of the first night. We hoped it would miss the island, but no such luck!. Later that night, I was awakened by the fury of the wind. Being up on the bluff had dried everything out but now it looked like we might get blown off the exposed site. I went out in my skivvies and placed beach rocks on top all the tent stakes and put extra tie downs on the rain fly. The kids tent had been placed behind a small rise and seemed well protected from the wind, unlike the position Denise and I found ourselves in. As the strength of the storm rose, rain was driven under the fly and in through the vent at the top of the dome tent, soaking everything that was not packed away. We again had intense lightning, much scarier now that we were higher and more exposed on the bluff. The storm lasted but a few hours, but after runnin' around in my underwear, the exertion of the day before, and spending two nights damp and chilled, I was in sorry shape. I was now the proud owner of a raging fever, a hacking cough, and had a case of the "bush-to-bush blues" as well. Although we had prepared to stay longer, Denise became very concerned for my health and we decided to make arrangements to leave after the second night, ending our S. Manitou Island camping adventure.

The ferry ride back to Leland was anything but boring. Two days of storms had worked the lake into a frenzy of foam and whitecaps. Almost as soon as the ferry left the harbor on the island, she started taking whole waves over the bow. Water, sometimes 8 inches deep, would run the length of her decks before finding it's way overboard through the scuppers. Even the crew, who I'm sure were "old salts", were having trouble keeping their feet under them. Very few passengers were not seasick. The Captain almost immediately announced he was taking the "scenic route", and crossing directly to Sleeping Bear Point, the shortest route to calmer waters. By time we were at the halfway mark, the "Mishe Mokwa" was obviously straining to plow her way through what now seemed mountainous waves. Her powerful twin diesels could be alternately heard laboring as we climbed each swell and racing as we slid over the crest. I thought about the 250-plus shipwrecks in the Maintou Passage that I'd read about, and I began to ponder what might be so special about our little ship. I needed to ponder no more, we reached calm water shortly thereafter and Leland after that.

We disembarked, sad that our trip had come to an end so early. Yeah - I know - we must be crazy! But over the years we've come to truly love S. Maintou Island. It is a beautiful island, hauntingly so, with it's abandoned houses and old settlements and rich history. Denise has been writing a novel for several years that has many references to the island (one of our initial reasons for going). Regardless of the "adventure" we had, I'd do it again at the drop of a hat... in fact.. We'll be on the island again this summer (with HF gear), probably on the weekend of 8/3 or 8/10. At this time, I'm not sure what bands we'll use (probably 80,40, and 20 mtrs on QRP and FIST calling freqs). There may be other hams on the island as well as I've put out an invite to any

hardy souls in my local radio club USECA who would like to participate (might even have a special QSL printed). Listen for us, and work an island that's rarely on the air. I'll go out of my way to work a fellow FIST.

Thanks for sharing your story, Ken! Let us know when you are going - does South Manitou have an IOTA number?



An SOS for Morse Code

by Greg *KG8UM*

Amateur radio was established using Morse code. High frequency radio (HF) and continuous wave mode (CW) is the essence of ham radio and both set the stage to preserve the hobby in it's purest form. There will be changes, but we must continue to provide a good base to build on for the future. Constantly eroding CW requirements is like pulling out foundation blocks of a building or giving up frequency space on the amateur bands, yet no one would advocate either of these. So, why burn a bridge and send any mode into decline, when we should keep our options open. Granted, it would be tough to make a case that CW is an absolute necessity, however, in an emergency whether it be personal or large scale, it would be quick and easy to set up & be on the air with a small radio and power supply, with a wire antenna to cover long distances if necessary. Any other mode would take more equipment & power to do the same thing.

I can only imagine how many responses one could get by sending the letters SOS in code over the vast area HF would cover, even with only 5 watts. There are other cases where knowing CW could facilitate communication using a radio that is partially disabled or no radio at all. If you look at an emergency situation from the receiving end, the declining number of amateurs who know CW will make more deaf ears to the distress signal coming from their radio. With only part of the amateurs knowing CW, this is a little like communicating in a foreign country. Not everyone is able to converse with everyone else, and the trend is growing. It is ironic how people use arcane language and commands for computers; why not use audible characters in CW, with plain English? Learning CW is a challenge and accomplishment that seems to help the hobby in many ways. If people would spend a little more time with CW, it would also run considerably faster than their first impression at 5 WPM. People are missing out on that sense of accomplishment and camaraderie.

There is a disparity in the amount of band space given to different license classes, which reduces the incentive to learn CW. We need more incentives to learn CW for all of us to communicate and keep Amateur Radio flexible to future needs and benefit all. Below are some telling numbers to show how big the lack of incentive is.

Band Space

HF Bands: 160m ~ 10m = 3.75 MHz;

VHF/UHF 6 m ~ 23 cm = 127 MHz, total is 130.75 MHz.

The 9 HF bands only makes up 2.87 % out of total 130.75 MHz available between 160m ~ 23cm.

One of the easiest licenses, no-code tech gives you 97.13 % of available band space.

Reference ARRL Handbook.

FISTS Novice Roundup

You have until May 5 to get your Novice RoundUp logs in to Pete K8OUA. Pete says: 'To call the first FISTS NR a success would really be stretching the point, but I have had some logs submitted that show that the participant really did go after the prize, and that makes me feel good. There were many who did try to drum up some support for the event, and the fact that there wasn't much isn't their fault. Most importantly, because we learn from our mistakes, I want to say 'thank you' to all those FISTS who sent in their comments to me with suggestions for doing a better job next year. Next month I'll have the final results including the winners in the various categories, and the comments of those who participated. Incidentally, the winners will be very happy with their certificates - Nancy really does a great job on those. And, those novices/techs who participated will also be happy because they will receive a participant's certificate no matter how many contacts they made.'

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE POND

by Geo G3ZQS

GREETINGS

Hi people and ole Geo is in trouble again. Let me explain. Some time in January I had been making a minor alteration to a file which was later compiled for use with the database. I rely on these files a great deal since they automate the process of updating the records. The accidental deletion of a couple of lines meant that unbeknown to myself, the programme actually 'zapped' the database files (stripped them of data) prior to re-writing them but the re-write did not take place. This meant that I had lost a tremendous amount of information and the floppy backup which was taken only periodically, did not hold the updates. I phoned Bob and got a copy of his latest version but this not only lacked recent new members but - more importantly - did not reflect updates of members who had renewed their subs. I cross-checked it as best I could with the accounts package which restored the records up to a point but some 8 or 10 pink slips were hoofed out when they should not have been. My apologies to all who were thus inconvenienced and I think everything is just about right now including the reinstatement of GOLRE who was actually deleted. Oooh, herein lies a lesson. If you keep perishable data on your computer then back up by routine and not periodically. My machine has two independent hard discs so now, files are backed up not only to the second drive but also to floppy - you never know. Hi.

Pse note changes of call for 2E0AJF who now becomes G0WWT and also 2E0AJS who now becomes G0WYV. The RA's anticipated start of the "M" series has seemingly been brought forward since Tony Mansfield now becomes MOAAJ. Congrats to all.

I remind you of the existence of the "ELMER AWARD" which is intended to acknowledge those who have spent time helping you (or indeed others) in their pur-

suit of a licence, code, practical etc. due to the need for an A4 envelope and stiffeners, you are requested to include £1.00 towards the cost.

North American note about ELMER AWARDS: They will be available from Lee N9NVV (address on the masthead). Please send callsign of both you and your Elmer, as well as addresses and two loose 32 cents stamps to cover costs.

There were distinct signs of spring. Tiny budlets were appearing on otherwise bare trees, long absent birds were beginning to return and there was a feeling of hope in the mild weather but we were suddenly hit with a period of deep winter with the wind apparently originating in the Steppes, snow and deep frosts. I hope that this is only a temporary setback but the appearance of VK2 and a few W's during daytime operating removed from my mind anything so insignificant as the weather. Was it my imagination or was someone calling CQ FISTS on 20m with a call which did not appear on the lists? The station was a UQ so I can only assume he was in the business of collecting numbers for his century, since we do not restrict this to FISTS members. I was side tracked by Brian N8IAG so was unable to respond to the call.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Are any of our members aware of a programme which will cause a computer to behave like an el-keyer? I know that this should be possible with a simple interface for the paddles but cannot remember seeing any such. This info for EI2IH.

N3JT. Jim is looking for a mod B2 (VWV2 spy set) - anybody got one sulking in their attic?

The newsletter is of course always open for those who are seeking help but I cannot guarantee to place such requests in the current letter. Frequently enough, there is insufficient space or the newsletter may already be on disk and awaiting printing but we do our best.

NEW MEMBERS

As I was stuffing envelopes for last months Keynote another batch of new ones flopped onto the mat. This I think will always be the case so you will please bear with me if this listing appears to be back dated.

In reference to last months listing, please note that my typing was not quite up to the mark and 85KHX (Daniel) should have been I5KHX.

2204	BV7FC Leo	2205	G0WLC Brian
2206	G0VRS Keith	2207	G0VQA Julian
2208	G0WLX Alan	2209	PY3LI Jorge
2210	G0PVL Don	2211	G4KQM Bob
2212	EI2IH Hugh	2213	GW3VLU Eddie
2214	G0VYX Peter	2215	G0WAOPeter

G0VYX joins us as a result of a lot of good work from Ray, G4UKZ and brings with him G0WAO both from the same hole in the ground near Rossendale.

Nancy keeps me very busy with her offerings which leaves our new members list looking like a pimple. It is hardly practical to include all of these of course but a full listing is available as noted below the banner.

WHO IS GERKE?

The code we use today is in fact due to a certain F.C. Gerke. It was used when the first Morse telegraph line in Europe was opened in 1848, between Hamburg and Cuxhaven under the technical guidance of FC Gerke, who devised the improved Morse alphabet. It was formally recognised for sole use in the German-Austrian Telegraph System on 1 July 1853 and is, basically unaltered, still in use world-wide to the present day. This of course in no way reduces the importance of SFB's contribution, and there is no suggestion of altering the name of the code we use to Gerke. But, honour where honour is due, we ought not to let his name and contribution go unrecorded.

73, de Ken G14CRQ.

EMBARRASSED CUSSYPAT

Just finished reading the news letter and enjoyed your yarn about the startled owl. Reminds me of the same expression on the face of one of our Persian cats when he jumped up to his favourite warm spot on top of the fish tank only to find that I had removed the cover to do a bit of tank maintenance. Cats definitely do not like water and certainly do not like being immersed in the stuff. Come to think of it, a pug faced Persian with wide eyes looks very much like a startled owl. G0UPS

The Strawberry Basket

G14XFS. Hello again Caroline. Yes thank you, both in reasonable nick. Activity at present restricted to regular skeds twxt Belfast and Scunthorpe on 2m and 6m. 449 on the former but just the odd "ping" on 6m. She suspects the problem may be at her end so awaiting decent wx to investigate the antenna.

G0VWT. Should read "Jim" and not John as mentioned in Keynote. Still at the stage where he is struggling for receiving speed and often falling into the trap of trying to send too fast but getting lots of support and QRS from other stations. DL8MTG. Hans and xyl Florian decorated the shack wall with the member certs immediately upon receipt and ordered stickers. There would be something wrong if I did not make a cockup somewhere and in this case, the stickers were printed on the wrong side. Ooooooh. G0IGP. "The need to defend Morse against those who seem bent on phasing it out remains paramount". Tony viewed the data on US licences with dismay and continues to support a "know code" licence. Hi. G3WGL advanced his subs somewhat because he and xyl are looking forward to a trip to the US. Brief stop in Atlanta where he hopes to meet up with Mike, KB4CBE, xyl Sherry and of course Hayley Merrill. Enjoy the trip Nolly. GW4PXQ. George was tickled to receive his Century from Bob and collecting the necessary 100 points took him quite a long time especially in view of his 2 years period of QRT. Yes, 14058 has been something of a nightmare recently George but as you note, the occasional US member does make an appearance. I think it is condx

rather than lack of activity though because I hear lots of squeaky sigs around that frequency with the FT1000 opened on 500Hz and no enhanced digital processing introduced. Once I have found 'em, it is usually possible to tweak the rx and bring them in with fairly reliable readability. **GOUMT**. Den reminds me that his call is indeed as above and not **GOVMT**. A welcome, he says, awaits any members visiting the RSARS at Blandford Forum. The Curator is Roger Bickard who can be found on 01258-482248.

THE LOGGING PROG

I have recently been asked for copies of this and one of them backfired when it produced an error message. Taking a look at my own copy proved that there was indeed some corruption but I found a clean copy to replace the "funny 'un". As far as I am aware, these two copies are the only ones of their type but if others have tried to install with lots of unsuccessfulness, just because it is free, don't simply say nothing - let me know. The main programme is around 380K in size so will run comfortably on just about any PC and works quite happily under all versions of Windows. The data files are called by the main programme so don't really enter into the equation and I am getting virtually instantaneous retrieval from over 10,300 calls which are held. This is a flea bite. The capacity is millions rather than merely thousands. Incidentally, when I send the suite out, they arrive with small data files which include all current FISTS members (identified with a "X" in the AFF(iliation) field. If any other of our members have similar software then I would be glad to publicise this and, indeed, try the stuff out myself. More and more of our members are buying PCs now that the prices are beginning to get more realistic - you can get a 486 or even pentiums these days for the same cost as that of earlier 286 machines. Storage has also fallen in price and most machines these days come complete with something like a Gigabyte plus of hard disk space. They are no longer the souped up electric typewriters that they started out life as. You can get 'em to remind you in advance of Auntie Mauds birthday, do a better job of FAX than a dedicated machine, circumnavigate snail mail with delivery times in hours rather than days, jazz up your correspondence with a multitude of fancy type families, draw graphics and - dare I mention this - play games. Some people are using them to track satellites automatically whilst others are using them as keyboard Morse senders (uuugh) and 2m packet has begun to rival e-mail in terms of delivery times.

A word of warning. If you are thinking of buying your first computer then seek advice from someone with experience. They are just like cars. There are good and bad 'uns, there are some which will not meet your requirements and there are others with overkill. A dealer will gladly sell you a heap of cheap junk since there is probably a significant profit margin here so tread cautiously.

ODDS 'N ENDS

You gotta turn the clocks forward tonight said Ivy. Dutifully, I dragged the 12" sq kitchen clock off the wall, advanced it by one hour and returned it. When I got up on Sunday morning, it told exactly the same time. Curses. There then followed a search which would have been the envy of the police which culminated in the uprooting of a fresh battery. I swapped the batteries, reset the time and again hung the clock. Half an hour later it was obvious that something was amiss - the hands had not moved. Come to think of it, the second hand was not moving either. Odd though, I could distinctly hear the brute ticking like once per second. I dragged it down again, shook it, called its parentage into doubt and bounced it on my wrist for the umpteenth time. It was then that I spotted a little piece of black plastic just proud of a housing. I flicked it with my finger and it moved. The second hand immediately began its progression round the dial and all was well. Now I remembered. The destructions that came with the clock said that when making adjustments, it was advisable to disconnect the mechanism from the motor by moving some obscure piece of plastic and I must have done this when yanking it from its holding screw. This experience prompted me into checking out the manuals for various bits and pieces which I keep in the shack. A full morning and the best part of an afternoon had passed before I located them all but now, having learned a lesson, they are all in one place - trouble is, will I be able to remember where that place is??

Again my apologies for the lateness of this publication. I picked up a real nasty helping of sinusitis (is that the correct medical term?) which hung about for some three weeks, causing me to twitch, breath spasmodically and pull all manner of facial distortions (rolling eyes, open jaw etc) and it was only the observation of my Daughter who recognised the condition for what it was that released me from it. Yep! I should have gone to see the quack but I felt a little embarrassed since this occurs on a regular basis and I thought I was just getting a wee bit run down.

Hope all you people had a nice Easter. We no longer make anything special out of it but of course it is something for the children. Here in the UK, the motorways are clogged with thousands of cars crawling lemming like to the coast over Maundy Thursday and Good Friday causing more serious congestion by their return on Easter Monday. Even when I did drive, my car remained firmly locked for the duration so perhaps it is such situations which causes me to shy away from contests.

Have fun people - pse do keep an eye out for me during the quiet week or so when I can get on the air. 80m is favourite during the evenings of course but HF when open.

73/88 es stay sober

de Geo.

May 1996

FISTS CW CLUB




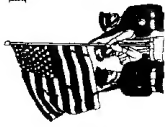
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 QSO Parties 14.058 at 2000Z 7.058 at 2300Z	6	7 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	8 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	9 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	10	11  FISTS Spring Sprint 1700Z-2100Z
12  Mothers Day QSO Parties 14.058 at 2000Z 7.058 at 2300Z	13	14 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	15 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	16 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	17  FISTS Party	18 Special Event Station W8BI all weekend
19 QSO Parties 14.058 at 2000Z 7.058 at 2300Z	20	21 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	22 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	23 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	24	25
26 QSO Parties 14.058 at 2000Z 7.058 at 2300Z	27  Memorial Day	28 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	29 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	30 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	31	

PHOTO FINDER

<u>CALL</u>	<u>Pg & Nr</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>Pg & Nr</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>Pg & Nr</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>Pg & Nr</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>Pg & Nr</u>
<u>AREA 1</u>		<u>AREA 4</u>		<u>AREA 7</u>		<u>AREA 8 (continued)</u>		<u>AREA 0</u>	
NIDNM	03 - 02	K4AHM	03 - 12	K7AA	03 - 35	KB8OHF	01 - 27	WOAP	02 - 24
NIDWA	03 - 25	KF4BHR	03 - 06	N7CFA	04 - 03	KA800F	04 - 18	WA0FGV	01 - 06
K1ETN	03 - 17	KM4BR	03 - 10	KA7DBR	04 - 25	K80UA	01 - 34	NOHFF	02 - 16
WK1H	03 - 01	DF4EO	03 - 36	N7DEN	04 - 34	W8PBO	04 - 23	GOIFM	03 - 31
KA1IIQ	02 - 08	KE4FPS	04 - 36	KI7EG	02 - 01	KF8RG	04 - 22	AA0IQ	03 - 16
AA1JA	03 - 03	K4FW	03 - 11	KA7GCB	04 - 07	KB8RHG	01 - 35	GIOPCU	01 - 16
AA1KU	02 - 26	KE4HBE	02 - 09	G7GOD	01 - 13	KF8SY	01 - 18	WZOW	03 - 33
NU1M	01 - 07	KE4HZM	03 - 07	KC7IG	04 - 33	N8TWP	04 - 20		
N1QLF	02 - 02	KA4IFF	03 - 34	KC7LSN	04 - 04	WK8U	01 - 25		
VE1ZAC	02 - 06	W4JTU	02 - 10	KC7LSO	04 - 05	KF8UE	02 - 33		
KA1ZQR	02 - 25	KC4OCS	02 - 21	KA7LUH	02 - 20	AC8W	01 - 31		
		WA4OSR	01 - 12	WB7PEI	04 - 06	N8WDH	04 - 14		
		KD4PUP	02 - 36	KB7SVA	04 - 01	N8XKE	01 - 05		
		N4SHE	03 - 14	KA7TIF	02 - 27	N8XKF	01 - 04		
<u>AREA 2</u>		AB4TH	03 - 15	K7WF	01 - 19	WB8ZWW	01 - 11		
KF2DD	04 - 21	K4TXJ	04 - 28	KA7WXY	04 - 02	KB8ZYY	02 - 29		
WB2EZG	03 - 05	KC4UUG	01 - 09			KB8ZZQ	03 - 22		
WB2FXK	04 - 13	KR4VQ	01 - 01						
NS2G	02 - 30	KS4VX	02 - 19						
NP2GQ	03 - 28	AE4W	02 - 05	<u>AREA 8</u>		<u>AREA 9</u>			
AE2L	03 - 20	AC4ZH	02 - 28	KA8AMX	01 - 32	W9CC	01 - 28		
AA2LK	04 - 09			K8BTH	01 - 02	N9CIB	02 - 12		
KB2OLK	02 - 11			KC8BVS	04 - 31	WB9CIS	02 - 35		
K2SB	04 - 19	<u>AREA 5</u>		KG8DA	02 - 32	AA9DK	01 - 23		
WP2T	03 - 27	AC5CM	02 - 17	N8DIX	04 - 11	N9DSP	01 - 33		
NY2V	04 - 08	K5FO	01 - 17	W8DYF	03 - 24	WU9E	04 - 27		
AA2WG	04 - 24	KC5GXC	03 - 29	W0BE	02 - 22	KB9GNP	04 - 17		
		KB5HRS	03 - 04	WK8F	02 - 23	N9JIY	01 - 29		
		KB5IEU	03 - 30	NA8G	02 - 14	KF9OE	04 - 16		
<u>AREA 3</u>		VE5RD	03 - 21	AA8HV	01 - 36	N9ROR	01 - 08		
VE3FS	01 - 14	W5TJW	02 - 34	W8LHG	03 - 32	KA9RPR	03 - 13		
W3HK	02 - 04	AB5TY	02 - 15	K8LJG	04 - 10	K9VKY	04 - 29		
N3HLM	02 - 18			KE8M	01 - 10	ND9X	02 - 13		
AA3JI	04 - 15			KJ8M	01 - 30				
WB3KMX	02 - 07			WA8MEM	01 - 24				
N3LBC	02 - 03	<u>AREA 6</u>		AA8MI	04 - 26				
N3QEN	04 - 32	W6EMD	03 - 18	W8MVN	01 - 21				
VA3RON	03 - 09	N6MLW	01 - 03	WN8MWM	04 - 30				
W3TI	01 - 15	KN6TC	03 - 19	N8NLE	02 - 31				
WG3U	01 - 20	AB6UN	01 - 22	KB8NTE	03 - 23				
G3VUN	04 - 35	WE6V	04 - 12	AA8NQ	01 - 26				
W3ZIF	03 - 08			WD8OCV	03 - 26				

(continued)

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